

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Mongolia
Program Title:	More Effective and Accountable Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	438-002
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$2,700,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$2,500,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1996
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2009

Summary: A new USAID country strategy was approved in Washington in May 2003 and took effect starting October 1, 2003. The document provides a framework for the USAID program in Mongolia over the next five years. Based on that strategy, the main focus of USAID activity related to "good governance" will be to effectively implement a comprehensive set of legal reforms and to work to ensure that the political process in Mongolia is more competitive, effective, and transparent.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

During FY 2004, USAID will address concerns related to good governance at two main levels. First, the lion's share of our funding will focus on the all-important area of judicial reform, a sector in which USAID already plays a leadership role. Second, USAID will promote political processes that are more competitive, effective and transparent.

Comprehensive legal reform (\$2,000,000 ESF). The USAID-funded Judicial Reform Program (JRP) is a comprehensive, far-reaching initiative that touches on nearly every facet of the legal system in Mongolia. Working closely with the General Council of Courts, the program will provide hands-on policy advice and training aimed at strengthening court management, introducing new approaches to legal education, curbing judicial corruption, improving legal ethics and informing a wider public about Mongolia's changing legal environment. By the end of the year, virtually every courtroom in Mongolia will have been automated. JRP is implemented by the National Center for State Courts in partnership with PACT, which plays a lead role in implementing outreach and public information programs.

More competitive, effective and transparent political processes (\$700,000 ESF). In the lead-up to the June 2004 parliamentary elections, USAID programs will maintain the party development focus that was established two years ago. The ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) controls 72 out of 76 parliamentary seats. It also exerts overwhelming political dominance at both a national and local level. Given this situation, much effort has centered on making the democratic coalition more effective and the MPRP more open and transparent. The upcoming elections will provide an important "test" of the extent to which opposition political parties can compete more successfully. It will also reflect the extent to which democracy is rooted in Mongolia. At the same time, USAID will maintain links to parliament, promote open hearings and prepare the new parliament to govern more effectively. Stand-alone programs related to transparency, women's issues, corruption and capacity building related to good governance might also be considered. At this point, both the political and parliamentary strengthening elements of the USAID portfolio are implemented by the International Republican Institute (IRI).

FY 2005 Program:

FY 2005 will mark a significant "transition" year for USAID activity related to democracy and governance in Mongolia. First, it will signal the end of the initial phase of the ongoing judicial reform program. Second, it will mark the conclusion of the current IRI grant focused on strengthening political parties and making parliament more effective.

Comprehensive legal reform (\$2,100,000 ESF). A follow-on legal reform program will almost certainly be introduced, even as the current effort winds down. The JRP program will have made significant advances in establishing an appropriate legal framework, introducing new approaches to legal education and improving courtroom management and administration. However, considerable work will still be needed to effectively implement that framework and further "embed" it into the Mongolian system of governance. Depending on progress in private sector-led economic growth, the USAID judicial reform program may be reshaped to more directly address issues related to commercial law and the legal aspects of a market economy. There may also be a need to develop broader program initiatives related to transparency and corruption.

More competitive, effective and transparent political processes (\$400,000 ESF). What happens in the June 2004 parliamentary elections (as well as the presidential elections that follow) will to a large extent determine USAID programs in this area in FY 2005 and beyond. In the immediate aftermath of the elections, USAID will likely concentrate on helping the new parliament become more open and effective. Depending on the outcome of the elections, USAID may reduce the level of training and technical advice provided to political parties, while at the same time considering support in potential new areas such as media, women's education, civic education, corruption and NGO development.

Performance and Results: The mid-term evaluation of JRP issued in November 2003 provides a detailed account of program implementation so far. Among other things, it notes that JRP is a "highly respected partner in judicial reform among both Mongolian and international stakeholders" and "has made a significant contribution to the progress of reform." As the project passes its mid point, one especially notable achievement is the fact that nearly three quarters of the Mongolian caseload has now been automated. Each automated courtroom includes a public access computer, further reflecting JRP's strong interest in promoting access as well as transparency.

Training has also improved considerably, due in large part to innovative donor coordination as well as the introduction of new training concepts. At this point, virtually every judge in Mongolia has participated in at least one JRP-provided training program. More than 600 other legal professionals have also been involved. A new national legal training facility, funded by the World Bank, will open in 2004. Continuing legal education provided by that institution will draw significantly on concepts and approaches developed under JRP.

Other JRP-led results include the development of a new judicial ethics code, the formation of a special prosecutor's office focused on judicial corruption and the launch of a variety of public outreach and information programs. Among other things, the latter initiative developed a popular bi-weekly television program that presents changes in the criminal code to a wider audience. Recent surveys suggest that this program has become the third most popular television drama in Mongolia.

As noted, the June 2004 parliamentary elections will provide an important test of the extent to which political processes in Mongolia have become more competitive, effective and transparent. Local (provincial and below) elections scheduled for approximately three months later will provide a second important test. Recent survey research and anecdotal evidence suggests that the June 2004 elections will result in a parliament that is more politically diverse and better reflects a wider range of viewpoints. The new parliament will also inherit some useful precedents. For example, the current parliament has experimented on a few occasions with open hearings, setting an important example that needs to be further expanded by the new parliament.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Mongolia

438-002 More Effective and Accountable Governance	DA	ESF	FSA
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	1,442	9,281	1,728
Expenditures	1,442	5,486	1,728
Unliquidated	0	3,795	0
Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	0	2,700	0
Expenditures	0	2,851	0
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	1,442	11,981	1,728
Expenditures	1,442	8,337	1,728
Unliquidated	0	3,644	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	0	2,700	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	0	2,700	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	0	2,500	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	1,442	17,181	1,728